inner lead.

The lead frame of the second embodiment shown in Figs. 2a to 2e can be fabricated using an etching method partially modified from that of Figs. 8a to 8e. That is, the tip 110A of each inner lead is formed to have a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank 810 using the same method as that shown in Figs. 8a to 8e and used for the fabrication of the inner leads 110. The remaining portions of the lead frame except for the inner lead tips are formed to have the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank 810 using the same process as used in the formation of the outer terminal portions 120 shown in Figs. 8a to 8e. Thus, the lead frame of the second embodiment, in which only the inner lead tips have a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank, can be fabricated using an etching process.

Where a semiconductor chip is mounted on the second surfaces 110b of the inner leads by means of bumps for an electrical connection therebetween, as in a semiconductor device according to a second embodiment as described hereinafter, an increased tolerance for the connection by bumps is obtained when the second surface 110b has a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. To this end, an etching method shown in Figs. 9a to 9e is used in this case. The etching method shown in Figs.

9a to 9e is the same as that of Figs. 8a to 8e in association with its primary etching process. After completion of the primary etching process, the etching method is conducted in a manner different from that of the etching method of Figs. 8a to 8e in that the second etching process is conduced at the side of the first recesses 850 after filling up the second recesses 860 by the etch-resist layer 880, thereby completely perforating the second recesses 860. The cross section of each inner lead, including its tip, formed in accordance with the etching method of Figs. 9a to 9e, has a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead at the second surface 110b, as shown in Fig. 5.

The etching method in which the etching process is conducted at two separate steps, respectively, as in that of Figs. 8a to 8e or 9a to 9e, is generally called a "two-step etching method". This etching method is advantageous in that a desired fineness can be obtained. The etching method used to fabricate the lead frame 110 of the first embodiment shown in Figs. 1a to 1d or the lead frame of the second embodiment shown in Figs. 2a to 2c involves the two-step etching method and the method for forming a desired shape of each lead frame portion while reducing the thickness of each pattern formed. In particular, the etching method makes it possible to achieve a desired

fineness. In accordance with the method illustrated in Figs. 8a to 8e or Figs. 9a to 9e, the fineness of the tip of each inner lead formed by this method is dependent on the thickness of the inner lead tip. For example, where the blank has a thickness t reduced to 50 ✪m, the inner leads can have a fineness corresponding to a lead width W1 of 100 ✪m and a tip pitch p of 0.15 mm, as shown in Fig. 8e. In the case of using a small blank thickness t of about 30 ✪m and a lead width W1 of 70 ✪m, it is possible to form inner leads having a fineness corresponding to an inner lead pitch p of 0.12 mm. Of course, it may be possible to form inner leads having a further reduced tip pitch by adjusting the blank thickness t and the lead width W1.

Now, preferred embodiments of the present invention associated with a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device will be described in conjunction with the annexed drawings. First, a first embodiment of a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device will be described. Fig. 4a is a cross-sectional view illustrating the BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device according to the first embodiment. Figs. 4b and 4c are cross-sectional views taken in the direction of the thickness of the semiconductor device to illustrate one inner lead tip and one outer lead portion, respectively. In Figs. 4a to 4c, the reference numeral 200 denotes the semiconductor device, 211 electrode portions (pads), 220 wires, 240 a resin encapsulate, 250 reinforcing tapes, 260 an insulating adhesive, and 270 terminal portions, respectively. The BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device is fabricated using the lead frame according to the first embodiment. In this BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device, terminal portions 270, which are made of solder and adapted to connected to an external circuit, are arranged in a two-dimensional fashion on respective surfaces of outer

terminal portions 120 included in the lead frame. In this first embodiment, a semiconductor chip 210 is fixedly attached to the first surfaces 110a of inner leads 110 by means of an insulating adhesive 260 at its surface formed with electrode portions (pads) 211 in such a fashion that the electrode portions (pads) 211 are interposed between facing ones of the inner leads 110. Each electrode portion (pad) 211 is electrically connected to the second surface 110b of an associated one of the inner leads 110 by means of a wire 220. The semiconductor device of this first embodiment is encapsulated by a resin encapsulate 240 having a size substantially same as that of the semiconductor chip. This semiconductor device is also called a "CSP (Chip Size Package)". Since the tip of each inner lead 110 connected with the semiconductor chip by the associated wire 220 has a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank, the semiconductor device can have a thin structure.

The inner leads 110 of the lead frame used in the semiconductor device of this first embodiment has a cross-sectional shape as shown in Fig. 10(イ)a. The inner lead 110 has an etched flat surface (second surface) 110Ab which has a width W1 slightly more than the width W2 of an opposite surface 110Aa (first surface). The widths W1 and W2 are more than the width W at the central portion of the inner lead when viewed in the direction of the inner lead thickness. Thus, the tip of the inner lead has a cross-sectional shape having opposite wide surfaces while having a third surface 110Ac and a fourth surface 110Ad with a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. By virtue of such a structure, a stable connection and an easy bonding are achieved in either case in which the inner lead tip 110A is wire-bonded to the semiconductor chip (not shown) at its first surface 110Aa or its second surface 110Ab. In the illustrated case, however, the etched surface (Fig. 10(イ)a) is used as a bonding surface. In the figure, the reference numeral 110Ab denotes the flat surface (second surface) formed by an etching process, 110Aa the surface of the lead frame blank (first surface), 1020A wires, and 1021a plated portions, respectively. Since the etched flat surface 110aB (second surface) is not rough, it exhibits a superior aptitude for connection (bonding) in the case of Fig. 10(ロ)a. Fig. 10(ハ) illustrates the connection (bonding) of the inner lead tip 1010B of the lead frame fabricated in accordance with an etching method shown in Fig. 13 to a semiconductor chip (not shown). In this case, the inner lead tip 1010B is

flat at both surfaces thereof. However, the surfaces of the inner lead tip 1010B have a width not more than the width defined between them in the thickness direction. Since both the surfaces are portions of the unprocessed surfaces of the blank for forming this lead frame, the aptitude thereof for connection (bonding) is inferior to that of the etched flat surface of the inner lead tip in accordance with this embodiment. Fig. 10(二) illustrates the tips 1010C and 1010D of inner leads formed in accordance with an etching process after being processed to have a reduced thickness and then subjected to an etching process and then connected to a semiconductor chip (not shown). Since the surface of each inner lead tip, at which a pressing process is conducted, is not flat, as shown in the figure, the tip is unstable during a connection (bonding) process, which may cause a problem in the reliability of the semiconductor package, as shown in Figs. 10(二)a and 10(二)b. In the figures, the reference numeral 1010Ab denotes a coining surface, and the reference numeral 1010Aa denotes a lead frame blank surface.

A second embodiment of the present invention associated with a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device will now be described. Fig. 5a is a cross-sectional view illustrating the BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device according to the second embodiment. Figs. 5b and 5c are cross-sectional views taken in the direction of the thickness of the semiconductor device to illustrate one inner lead tip and one outer lead portion, respectively. In Figs. 5a to 5c, the reference numeral 200 denotes the semiconductor device, 210 a semiconductor chip, 212 bumps, 240 a resin encapsulate, 250 reinforcing tapes, and 270 terminal portions, respectively. The BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device is fabricated using a lead frame made of a nickel-copper alloy containing 42% Ni to have a thickness of about 0.15 mm and processed to have the same shape as that in the first embodiment of Figs. 1a and 1b in accordance with an etching process of Figs. 9a to 9e while having, at the entire portion of each inner lead, a thickness smaller than that of a blank for the lead frame. In this BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device, terminal portions 270, which are made of solder and adapted to connected to an external circuit, are arranged in a two-dimensional fashion on one surface of the semiconductor device. In this second embodiment, a semiconductor chip 210 is mounted near the tips of the inner leads 110 by means of bumps 212. Where the strength of the inner leads is insufficient due to a thin structure of the lead frame, the semiconductor chip 210 may be

attached to the lead frame over the entire portion of the lead frame.

The inner leads 110 of the lead frame used in the semiconductor device of this second embodiment has a cross-sectional shape as shown in Fig. 10(1)b. The inner lead 110 has an etched flat surface (second surface) 110Ab which has a width W1A slightly more than the width W2A of an opposite surface. The widths W1A and W2A (about 100 Ωm) are more than the width WA at the central portion of the inner lead when viewed in the direction of the inner lead thickness. Thus, the tip of the inner lead has a cross-sectional shape having opposite wide surfaces. The first surface 110Aa is flat whereas the second surface 110Ab has a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. The third and fourth surfaces 110Ac and 110Ad also have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. By virtue of such a structure, a stable and easy connection at the second surface 110Ab is achieved.

The semiconductor device according to this second embodiment uses the lead frame fabricated in accordance with the etching method of Figs. 9a to 9e while having a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank at the entire portion of the inner lead thereof. The lead frame also has a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead tip at the second surface 110b of the inner lead 110 including the tip. By virtue of such a lead frame structure, an increased tolerance for the connection by bumps is obtained.

A third embodiment of the present invention associated with a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device will now be described. Fig. 6a is a cross-sectional view illustrating the BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device according to the third embodiment. Figs. 6b and 6c are cross-sectional views taken in the direction of the thickness of the semiconductor device to illustrate one inner lead tip and one outer lead portion, respectively. In Figs. 6a to 6c, the reference numeral 200 denotes the semiconductor device, 210 a semiconductor chip,

211 wires, 220 a conductive adhesive, 270 terminal portions, 280 a protective frame portion, and 290 an adhesive, respectively. The BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device is fabricated using a lead frame having a die pad along with the lead frame structure of he first embodiment. In this BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device, terminal portions 270, which are made of solder and adapted to connected to an external circuit, are arranged in a two-dimensional fashion on one surface of the semiconductor device. The lead frame used in this second embodiment is fabricated using the etching method of Figs. 8a to 8e according to the first embodiment to have a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank at the entire portion of the inner lead and the die pad 130. This lead frame is the same as that of the first embodiment in terms of the used blank and shape, except for the die pad 130 and portions associated with the die pad 130. In the semiconductor device of this third embodiment, the die pad 130 has a size allowing it to be received between facing electrode portions (pads) 211 of the semiconductor chip 210. The semiconductor chip 210 is mounted on the die pad 130 in such a fashion that its surface provided with the electrode portions (bumps) 211 directs in the same direction as the second surface 110b of each inner lead 110 under the condition in which the surface provided with the

electrode portions 211 is attached to the die pad 130 by means of a conductive adhesive 260. The electrode portions (bumps) 211 are electrically connected to the second surfaces 110b of the inner leads 110 by means of wires, respectively. By virtue of such a structure, the semiconductor device of this embodiment can have a further thinned structure, as compared to that of the first embodiment or fourth embodiment. The reason why the conductive adhesive is used in this embodiment is to dissipate heat generated in the semiconductor device through the die pad. Where terminal portions are provided at the lower surface of the die pad for a connection to a ground line, it is possible to more effectively dissipate heat. A protective frame portion 280 is mounted by means of an adhesive 290 to cover the peripheral portion of the semiconductor device. This protective frame portion 280 is used where the semiconductor device has an insufficient strength due to its thinned structure. Accordingly, the protective frame portion 280 is not an essential element.

In this embodiment, the die pad and semiconductor chip are connected together by means of the conductive adhesive, as mentioned above. Accordingly, where the die pad is connected to a ground line, it is possible to not only obtain a heat dissipation effect, but also to solve a problem associated with noise.

A fourth embodiment of the present invention associated with a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device will now be described. Fig. 7a is a cross-sectional view illustrating the BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device according to the fourth embodiment. Figs. 7b and 7c are cross-sectional views taken in the direction of the thickness of the semiconductor device to illustrate one inner lead tip and one outer lead portion, respectively. In Figs. 7a to 7c, the reference numeral 200 denotes the semiconductor device, 210 a semiconductor chip, 211 pads, 220 wieres, 240 a resin encapsulate, 250 reinforcing tapes, 260 a conductive adhesive, and 270 terminal portions, respectively. The semiconductor device of the fourth embodiment is a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device fabricated using a lead frame made of a nickel-copper alloy containing 42% Ni and processed to have the same shape as that in the third embodiment in accordance with an etching process of Figs. 8a to 8e while having, at the entire portion of each inner lead and its die pad 130, a thickness smaller than that of a blank for the lead frame. In this BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device, terminal portions 270, which are made of solder and adapted to connected to an external circuit, are arranged in a two-dimensional fashion on one surface of the semiconductor device. The die pad 130 has a size

larger than that of the third embodiment, but substantially equal to that of the semiconductor chip 210. The semiconductor chip 210 is mounted on the die pad 130 in such a fashion that its surface provided with the electrode portions (bumps) 211 directs in the same direction as the second surface 110b of each inner lead 110 under the condition in which a surface opposite to the surface provided with the electrode portions 211 is attached to the die pad 130 by means of a conductive adhesive 260. The electrode portions (bumps) 211 are electrically connected to the second surfaces 110b of the inner leads 110 by means of wires, respectively.

All the semiconductor devices of the first through fourth embodiments use a two-step etching method shown in Figs. 8 or 9 and have a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank used at at least its inner lead tip. Accordingly, these semiconductor devices achieves a further increase in the number of terminals, as compared to conventional BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor devices using a lead frame as a core, as in Fig. 12. Since the tips of the inner leads have a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank, it is possible to fabricate a semiconductor device having a thinned structure.

[EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION]

As apparent from the above description, the lead frame of the present invention is fabricated using a two-step etching process in such a fashion that it has a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank used at its inner lead tips. The present invention makes it possible to provide a BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device capable of achieving use of an increased number of terminals by arranging outer terminal portions in a two-dimensional fashion on a lead frame surface, as compared to conventional BGA semiconductor devices using a lead frame processed in such a fashion that it has the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank at the tips of inner leads thereof, as shown in Fig. 12. The BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device of the present invention is fabricated using the above mentioned lead frame of the present invention. Accordingly, the BGA type resin encapsulated semiconductor device can have a thinned structure while having an increased number of terminals. Thus, the present invention provides a BGA type semiconductor device using a lead frame.

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[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

RESIN-ENCAPSULATED SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

[CLAIMS]

1. A resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in such a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including:

inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank;

terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit;

the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to a thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the surface of the lead frame on which the semiconductor chip is mounted, the terminal columns

having terminal portions arranged on their tips;

the terminal portions being made of solder, etc. and exposed externally through the encapsulating resin such that the terminal columns are exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at their outer sides; and

the semiconductor chip at its surface having electrode portions being mounted on the inner leads by means of an insulating adhesive, and the electrode portions being arranged between the inner leads and being electrically connected to tips of the inner leads by wires.

2. A resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in such a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including:

inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank;

terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit;

the terminal columns being disposed outsid of the

inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to a thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the lead frame surface on which the semiconductor chip is mounted, the terminal columns being exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at a portion of the tips thereof to serve as terminal portions, the terminal columns being exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at the outer sides thereof; and

the semiconductor chip at its surface having electrode portions being mounted on the inner leads by means of an insulating adhesive, and the electrode portions being electrically connected to tips of the inner leads by wires.

3. The resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor devices of claim 1 or 2, wherein the lead frame has a die pad, and the semiconductor chip is mounted in such a manner that electrode portions thereof are arranged between the inner leads and the die pad.

4. A resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in such a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating r sin in such a manner

that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including:

inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank;

terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit;

the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to a thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the surface of the lead frame on which the semiconductor device is mounted, the terminal columns having terminal portions arranged on their tips;

the terminal portions being made of solder, etc. and exposed externally through the encapsulating resin such that the terminal columns are exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at the outer sides thereof; and

the semiconductor chip being mounted on the inner leads by bumps arranged on one surface of the semiconductor chip, and the semiconductor chip being electrically connected to the inner leads.

5. A resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor

device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in such a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including:

inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank;

terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit;

the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to a thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the surface of the lead frame on which the semiconductor device is mounted, the terminal columns being exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at a portion of tips thereof to serve as terminal portions; and

the semiconductor chip being mounted on the inner leads by bumps arranged on one surface thereof, and the semiconductor chip being electrically connected to the inner leads.

6. The resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the inner leads each have a rectangular cross-sectional shape including four faces respectively provided with a first surface, a second surface, a third surface, and a fourth surface, the first surface being opposite to the second surface and flush with one surface of the remaining portion of the inner lead having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank, and the third and fourth surfaces each having a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[FIELD OF THE INVENTION]

The present invention relates to a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device capable of meeting the requirement for an increase in the number of terminals and having a miniaturized structure and thus an excellent mounting efficiency. More particularly, the present invention relates to a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device utilizing a lead frame shaped in a manner that an inner lead portion is thinner in a thickness than a lead frame blank.

[DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART]

Fig. 11a shows the configuration of a generally known resin-encapsulated semiconductor device (a plastic lead frame package). The shown resin-encapsulated semiconductor device includes a die pad 1111 having a semiconductor chip 1120 mounted thereon, outer leads to be electrically connected to the associated circuits, inner leads 1112 formed integrally with the outer leads 1113, bonding wires 1130 for electrically connecting the tips of the inner leads 1112 to the bonding pad 1121 of the semiconductor chip 1120, and a resin encapsulating the semiconductor chip 1120 to protect the semiconductor chip 1120 from external stresses and contaminants. This resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, after mounting the semiconductor device 1120 on the bonding pad 1121, is manufactured by encapsulating the semiconductor chip 1120 with the resin. In this resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, the number of the inner leads 1112 is equal to that of the bonding pads 1121 of the semiconductor chip 1120. And, Fig. 11b shows the configuration of a monolayer lead frame used as an assembly member of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device shown in Fig. 11a. Such a lead frame includes the bonding pad 1111 for mounting the semiconductor chip, the inner leads 1112 to be electrically connected to the semiconductor device, the outer lead 1113 which is integral

with the inner lead 1112 and is adapted to be electrically connected to the associated circuits. This also includes dam bars serving as a dam when encapsulating the semiconductor device with the resin, and a frame serving to support the entire lead frame 1110. Such a lead frame is formed from a highly conductive metal such as a cobalt, 42 alloy(a 42% Ni-Fe alloy), copper-based alloy by a pressing working process or an etching process.

Recently, there has been growing demand for the miniaturization and reduction in thickness of resin-encapsulated semiconductor device employing lead frames like the lead frame 1110(plastic lead frame package) and the increase of the number of terminals of resin-encapsulated semiconductor package as electronic apparatuses are miniaturized progressively and the degree of the integration of semiconductor device increase progressively. Thus, recent resin-encapsulated semiconductor package, particularly quad plate package(QFPs) and thin quad flat packages (TQFPs) have each a greatly increased number of pins.

Lead frames having inner leads arranged at small pitches among lead frames for semiconductor packages are fabricated by a photolithographic etching process, while lead frames having inner leads arranged at comparatively large pitches among lead frames for semiconductor packages

are fabricated by press working. However, lead frames having a large number of fine inner leads to be used for forming semiconductor packages having a large number of pins are fabricated by subjecting a blank of a thickness on the order of 0.25 mm to an etching process, not a press working.

The etching process for forming a lead frame having fine inner leads will be described hereinafter with reference to Fig. 10. First a copper alloy or 42 alloy thin sheet 1010 of a thickness on the order of 0.25 mm (blank for a lead frame) is cleaned perfectly (Fig. 10a). Then, a photoresist, such as a water-soluble casein photoresist containing potassium dichromate as a sensitive agent, is spread in photoresist films 1020 over the major surfaces of the thin film as shown in Fig. 10b. Then, the photoresist films are exposed, through a mask of a predetermined pattern, to light emitted by a high-pressure mercury lamp, and the thin sheet is immersed in a developer for development to form a patterned photoresist film 1030 as shown in Fig. 10c. Then, the thin sheet is subjected, when need be, to a hardening process, a washing process and such, and then an etchant containing ferric chloride as a principal component is sprayed against the thin sheet 1010 to etch through portions of the thin sheet 1010 not coated with the patterned photoresist films 1020 so that inner

leads of predetermined sizes and shapes are formed as shown in Fig. 10d.

Then, the patterned resist films are removed, the patterned thin sheet 1010 is washed to complete a lead frame having the inner leads of desired shapes as shown in Fig. 13e. Predetermined areas of the lead frame thus formed by the etching process are silver-plated. After being washed and dried, an adhesive polyimide tape is stuck to the inner leads for fixation, predetermined tab bars are bent, when need be, and the die pad depressed. In the etching process, the etchant etches the thin sheet in both the direction of the thickness and directions perpendicular to the thickness, which limits the miniaturization of inner lead pitches of lead frames. Since the thin sheet is etched from both the major surfaces as shown in Fig. 10 during the etching process, it is said, when the lead frame has a line-and-space shape, that the smallest possible intervals between the lines are in the range of 50 to 100% of the thickness of the thin sheet. From the viewpoint of forming the outer lead having a sufficient strength, generally, the thickness of the thin sheet must be about 0.125 mm or above. Furthermore, the width of the inner leads must be in the range of 70 to 80 μm for successful wire bonding. When the etching process as illustrated in Fig. 10 is employed in fabricating a lead frame, a thin sheet of a small

thickness in the range of 0.125 to 0.15 mm is used and inner leads are formed by etching so that the fine tips thereof are arranged at a pitch of about 0.165 mm.

However, recent miniature resin-encapsulated semiconductor package requires inner leads arranged at pitches in the range of 0.013 to 0.15 mm, far smaller than 0.165 mm. When a lead frame is fabricated by processing a thin sheet of a reduced thickness, the strength of the outer leads of such a lead frame is not large enough to withstand external forces that may be applied thereto in the subsequent processes including an assembling process and a chip mounting process. Accordingly, there is a limit to the reduction of the thickness of the thin sheet to enable the fabrication of a minute lead frame having fine leads arranged at very small pitches by etching.

An etching method previously proposed to overcome such difficulties subjects a thin sheet to an etching process to form a lead frame after reducing the thickness of portions of the thin sheet corresponding to the inner leads of the lead frame by half etching or pressing to form the fine inner leads by etching without reducing the strength of the outer leads. However, problems arise in accuracy in the subsequent processes when the lead frame is formed by etching after reducing the thickness of the portions corresponding to the inner leads by pressing; for example,

the smoothness of the surface of the plated areas is unsatisfactory, the inner leads cannot be formed in a flatness and a dimensional accuracy required to clamp the lead frame accurately for bonding and molding, and a platemaking process must be repeated twice making the lead fabricating process intricate. It is also necessary to repeat a platemaking process twice when the thickness of the portions of the thin sheet corresponding to the inner leads is reduced by half etching before subjecting the thin sheet to an etching process for forming the lead frame, which also makes the lead frame fabricating process intricate. Thus, this previously proposed etching method has not yet been applied to practical lead frame fabricating processes.

[SUBJECT MATTERS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION]

Meanwhile, there has been growing demand for the miniaturization and increase in the mounting efficiency of the semiconductor package as electronic apparatuses are miniaturized progressively. Thus, a package, so called "CSP" (Chip Size Package) is proposed which is encapsulated with a resin in such a manner that its size is substantially equal to that of the semiconductor chip. The CSP has the following advantages.

1) First, where the number of pins of the CSP is qual

to that of QFP (Quad Flad Package) or BGA (Ball Grid Package), the CSP enables a remarkable reduction in the mounting area as compared to the QFP or BGA.

2) Second, if the CSP is equal to the QFP or BGA in size, the CSP is increased in the pin number over the QFP or BGA. In the case of the QFP, a practical use dimension is 40 mm or less when considering the length of the package or substrate, and the pin number is 304 or less if the outer leads are arranged at a pitch of 0.5 mm. The outer leads need to be arranged at a pitch of 0.4mm or 0.3 mm to increase the pin number, but this causes a user difficulty in mounting the semiconductor package at a high productivity. Generally, in fabricating the QFP in which the outer leads are arranged at a pitch of 0.3 mm or less, the mass production of the QFP necessarily involves an increase in costs, otherwise the mass production is difficult. The BGA was proposed to overcome such a difficulty of the QFP. In the BGA, external terminals are formed in the shape of two-dimensional array, and arranged at a wider pitch, thereby reducing a difficulty in mounting it. Moreover, although the BGA permits the conventional overall reflow soldering even at the pin number in excess of 300 pins, solder bumps are incorporated with clacks depending on the temperature cycle if the dimension of the BGA reaches 30 to 40 mm, such that an upper limitation of

the pin number of the BGA is 600 to 700 pins, or at most 1000 pins. In the case of the CSP in which external terminals are mounted in the shape of two-dimensional array on the back surface of the CSP, pitches of the external terminals can be increased in accordance with the concepts of the BGA. Moreover, in the CSP, the overall reflow soldering can be permitted, as in the BGA.

3) Third, as compared to the QFP or BGA, the CSP is short in an interconnection length, and thus less in the parasitic capacitance, and thereby short in the transfer delay time. Where the clock rate is in excess of 100 MHZ, the QFP is problematic in transfer into the package. The CSP having a shortened interconnection length is advantageous. Accordingly, the CSP is advantageous in view of the mounting efficiency, but it needs to be narrower in the terminal pitch when considering a demand for an increase in the number of terminals.

Thus, the present invention is aimed to provide a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device employing a lead frame, which is capable of meeting a demand for the miniaturization and increased terminal number.

(MEANS FOR SOLVING THE SUBJECT MATTERS)

A resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention is a resin-

encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including: inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank; and terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit; the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the surface on which the semiconductor chip is mounted, the terminal columns having terminal portions arranged on their tips; the terminal portions being made of solder, etc. and exposed externally through the encapsulating resin such that the terminal columns are exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at their outer sides; the semiconductor chip at its surface having electrode portions (pads) being mounted on the inner leads by means of an insulating adhesive, and the electrode portions being

electrically connected to tips of the inner leads by wires.

Moreover, a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention is a resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including: inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank; and terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit; the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the lead frame surface on which the semiconductor chip is mounted, the terminal columns being exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at their outer sides; the semiconductor chip at its surface having electrode portions (pads) being mounted on the inner leads by means of an insulating adhesive, and the electrode portions being

arranged between the inner leads and electrically connected to tips of the inner leads by wires.

In the resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor devices as described above, the lead frame has a die pad, and the semiconductor chip is mounted in such a manner that their electrode portions is arranged between the inner leads and the die pad.

Furthermore, a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention is a resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including: inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank; and terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit; the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite th

surface of the lead frame on which the semiconductor device is mounted, the terminal columns having terminal portions arranged on their tips; the terminal portions being made of solder, etc. and exposed externally through the encapsulating resin such that the terminal columns are exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at their outer sides; the semiconductor chip being mounted on the inner leads by bumps arranged on one surface of the semiconductor chip, and the semiconductor chip being electrically connected to the inner leads.

Also, a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention is a resin-encapsulated CSP type semiconductor device in which a lead frame shaped in accordance with a two-step etching process in a manner that a thickness of inner leads is thinner than that of the lead frame and which is encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in such a manner that it is substantially the same as that of a semiconductor chip in size, the lead frame including: inner leads having a thickness smaller than that of a lead frame blank; and terminal columns having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank and being integrally connected to the inner leads and also being adapted to be electrically connected to an external circuit; the terminal columns being disposed outside of the inner leads in such a manner

that they are coupled to the inner leads in a direction orthogonal to thickness-wise direction thereof, the terminal columns being mounted on the surface opposite the surface of the lead frame on which the semiconductor device is mounted, the terminal columns having terminal portions arranged on their tips; the terminal portions being exposed externally through the encapsulating resin at a portion of tips thereof; the semiconductor chip being mounted on the inner leads by bumps arranged on one surface thereof, and the semiconductor chip being electrically connected to the inner leads.

In the resin-encapsulated CSP type package, the inner leads each have a rectangular cross-sectional shape including four faces respectively provided with a first surface, a second surface, a third surface, and a fourth surface, the first surface being opposite to the second surface and flush with one surface of the remaining portion of the inner lead having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank, and the third and fourth surfaces each having a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead.

Meanwhile, the CSP type semiconductor devices as used herein generally means resin-encapsulated semiconductor devices encapsulated with an encapsulating resin in a mann r that each of the resulting structures is

substantially equal to a semiconductor chip in a dimension in X and Y directions except in a direction of thickness. The resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention means a semiconductor device employing a lead frame among the defined CSP type semiconductor device.

In the CSP type semiconductor device described above, the terminal portions made of solder are formed on each of the terminal columns and is externally exposed from the encapsulating resin, but the terminal portions do not necessarily need to be protruded from the encapsulating resin. Moreover, if necessary, the outside face of each terminal column which is exposed externally from the encapsulating resin may be covered with a protective frame by means of an adhesive.

[FUNCTIONS]

The resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention can meet a demand for an increase in the number of terminals and has a miniaturized structure and thus an increased mounting efficiency. At this time, in the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, as the removal process of the dam bars by press working or the forming process of the outer leads as in the case of using a mono-layered lead frame

shown in Fig. 11b is not required, there is no problem such as bending or coplanarity of the outer leads due to this process. More particularly, the use of a multipinned lead frame shaped in a manner that inner leads have a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank by a two-step etching process, that is, the inner leads are arranged at a fine pitch, can meet a demand for an increase in the pin number of the semiconductor device. Moreover, as the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device is fabricated in such a manner that it is equal to that of a semiconductor chip in size, it can be miniaturized. In addition, each of the inner leads fabricated by a two-step etching process as shown Fig. 8 has a rectangular cross-sectional shape including four faces respectively provided with a first surface, a second surface, a third surface, and a fourth surface, the first surface being opposite to the second surface and flush with one surface of the remaining portion of the inner lead having the same thickness as that of the lead frame blank, and the third and fourth surfaces each having a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. Thus, the second surface of each inner lead is flat, and is excellent in wire-bonding property. Moreover, as the first surface of each inner lead is flat and the third and fourth surfaces of the inner leads each have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner

lead, the inner leads are stable and wider in their width.

Furthermore, in the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention, a semiconductor chip is mounted on the inner leads by bumps arranged on one surface of the semiconductor chip, and the semiconductor chip and the inner leads are electrically connected to each other. Thus, wire bondings are not required, and also bondings can be carried out in a lump.

[EMBODIMENTS]

Embodiments of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention will now be described with reference to Figures. 1. First, a first embodiment is shown in Fig. 1. Fig 1a is a cross-sectional view of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device according to the first embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 1b is a cross-sectional view of each of the inner leads taken along the line A1-A2 of Fig. 1a, and Fig 1c is a cross-sectional of each of terminal columns view taken along the line B1-B2 of Fig. 1a. In Fig. 1, a reference numeral 100 depicts a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, 110 a semiconductor chip, 111 electrode portions (pads), 120 wires, 130 a lead frame, 131 inner leads, 131Aa a first surface, 131Ab a second surface, 131Ac a third surface, 131Ad a fourth surface, 133 terminal columns, 133A

terminal portions, 133B sides, 140 an encapsulating resin, 150 an insulating adhesive, and 160 a reinforcing tape.

In the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device according to the first embodiment, a semiconductor device 110 is mounted in a manner that the electrode portions of the semiconductor chip 110 are arranged between the inner leads. The semiconductor chip 110 is electrically connected to the second surface 131 Ab of the tip of each inner lead 131. The electrical connection of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device 100 to an external circuit is achieved by mounting the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device 100 at terminal portions made of semi-spherical solder on a printed circuit substrate. The lead frame 130 used in the semiconductor device 100 according to the first embodiment is made of a 42% nickel-iron alloy. This lead frame 130 has a shape as shown in Fig. 6a. As shown in Fig. 6a, the lead frame 130 has inner leads 131 shaped to have a thickness smaller than that of the terminal column 133. Dam bars 136 serve as a dam when encapsulating with a resin. Moreover, although the lead frame processed by etching to have a shape as shown in Fig. 6a is used in this embodiment, the lead frame is not limited to such a shape as portions other than the inner leads and the terminal columns 133 are not required to be used. The inner leads 131 have a thickness of 40□m whereas

the portions of the lead frame other than the inner leads 131 have a thickness of 0.15 mm corresponding to the thickness of the lead frame blank. The tips of the inner leads have a fine pitch of 0.12 mm so as to achieve an increase in the number of terminals for semiconductor devices. The second face denoted by the reference numeral 131Ab is a surface etched, but having a substantially flat profile, so as to allow an easy wire boding thereon. The third and fourth faces 131Ac and 131Ad have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the associated inner lead, respectively. This structure exhibits a high strength even though the second face (wire bonding surface) is narrow. Also, Fig. 6b is a cross-sectional view taken with the line C1-C2 of Fig. 6a. The reinforcing tape 160 is attached fixedly so as not to cause twisting in the inner leads. Also, if the inner leads are short in their length, a lead frame fabricated by etching to have a shape shown in Fig. 6a is mounted with the semiconductor chip in accordance with a method as described below. However, where the inner leads are long in their length and have a tendency for the generation of twisting therein, it is impossible to fabricate directly the lead frame by etching to have a shape as shown in Fig. 6a. Therefore, after etching the lead frame in a state where the tips of the inner leads are fixed to the connecting portion 131B as shown in Fig.

6c(i), the inner leads 131 are fixed with the reinforcing tape 160 as shown in Fig. 6c(ii). Then, the connecting portion 131B unnecessary for the fabrication of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device are removed by means of a press as shown in Fig. 6c (iii), and a semiconductor chip is then mounted on the lead frame. In Fig. 6c(ii), the line E1-E2 shows the line to be cut by a press.

A method for the fabrication of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device will now be described in brief. First, as shown in Fig. 5a, a lead frame, which is fabricated by an etching and from which the unnecessary portions are moved by a cutting process, is arranged in a manner that thin tips of the inner leads are directed upwardly. Moreover, if the inner leads are long in their length, the tips of the inner leads are fixed by a polyimide tape, as required. Then, the surface of the semiconductor device 110 having electrode portions 111 formed thereon is directed downwardly, and located on the inner leads in a manner that the electrode portions are arranged between the inner leads 131. Then, the semiconductor device 110 is mounted fixedly on the inner leads by means of an insulating adhesive 150.

Then, as shown in Fig. 5b, the electrode portions are electrically connected to the tips of the inner leads 131 by wires 120. Subsequently, encapsulation is carried out

with the conventional encapsulating resin 140, as shown in Fig. 5c. Such an encapsulation with the resin is carried out using a desired mold in a manner that the outer surface of the terminal columns is somewhat protruded externally from the encapsulating resin. Then, unnecessary portions of the lead frame 130 protruded from the encapsulating resin 140 are cut off by a press to form terminal columns 130 while forming sides 133B of the terminal columns 130, as shown in Fig. 5d. In this case, it is preferable to form previously the cutting line in the lead frame for easy cutting. Particularly, the forming of the cutting line during etching of the lead frame results in the saving of time. The dam bars 136, frame portions 137, etc. of the lead frame 110 as shown in Fig. 6 are removed. Next, terminal portion 133A made of solder is arranged on the outer surface of each terminal column to fabricate a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device. The terminal portion 133A serves to facilitate connection of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device to an external circuit, but does not necessarily need to be arranged.

A method for etching the lead frame of the first embodiment will now be described in conjunction with Figs. 8a to 8e. Figs. 8a to 8e are cross-sectional views respectively illustrating sequential steps of the etching process for the lead frame of the first embodiment shown in

Fig. 1. In particular, the cross-sectional views of Figs. 8a to 8e correspond to a cross section taken along the line D1 - D2 of Fig. 6a, respectively. In Figs. 8a to 8e, the reference numeral 810 denotes a lead frame blank, 820A and 820B resist patterns, 830 first opening, 840 second openings, 850 first concave portion, 860 second concave portions, 870 flat surface, 880 an etch-resistant layer, 131A tips of inner leads, and 131Ab second faces of inner leads, respectively. First, a water-soluble casein resist using potassium dichromate as a sensitive agent is coated over both surfaces of a lead frame blank 810 made of a 42% nickel-iron alloy and having a thickness of about 0.15 mm. Using desired pattern plates, the resist films are patterned to form resist patterns 820A and 820B having first opening 830 and second openings 840, respectively (Fig. 8a).

The first opening 830 is adapted to etch the lead frame blank 810 to have an etched flat bottom surface of a thickness smaller than that of the lead frame blank 810 in a subsequent process. The second openings 840 are adapted to form desired shapes of tips of inner leads. Although the first opening 830 includes at least an area forming the tips of the inner leads 810, a topology generated by a partially thinned portion by etching in a subsequent process can cause hindrance in a taping process or a

clamping process for fixing the lead frame. Thus, an area to be etched needs to be sufficiently large without being limited to an area for forming the fine portions of the tips of the inner leads. Thereafter, both surfaces of the lead frame blank 810 formed with the resist patterns are etched using a 48 Be' ferric chloride solution of a temperature of 57 ΞC at a spray pressure of 2.5 kg/cm2. The etching process is terminated at the point of time when first recess 850 etched to have a flat etched bottom surface has a depth h corresponding to 2/3 of the thickness of the lead frame blank (Fig. 8b).

Although both surfaces of the lead frame blank 810 are simultaneously etched in the primary etching process, it is unnecessary to simultaneously etch both surfaces of the lead frame blank 810. For instance, an etching process may be conducted at the surface of the lead frame blank formed with the resist pattern 820B having openings of a desired shape to form at least a desired shape of the inner leads using an etchant solution. In this case, the etching process is terminated after obtaining a desired etching depth at the etched inner lead forming regions. The reason why both surfaces of the lead frame blank 810 are simultaneously etched, as in this embodiment, is to reduce the etching time taken in a secondary etching process as described hereinafter. The total time taken for the

primary and secondary etching processes is less than that taken in the case of etching only one surface of the lead frame blank on which the resist pattern 820B is formed. Subsequently, the surface provided with the first recess 850 etched at the first opening 830 is entirely coated with an etch-resistant hot-melt wax (acidic wax type MR-WB6, The Inctec Inc.) by a die coater to form an etch-resistant layer 880 so as to fill up the first recess 850 and to cover the resist pattern 820A (Fig. 8c).

It is unnecessary to coat the etch-resistant layer 880 over the entire portion of the surface provided with the resist pattern 820A. However, it is preferred that the etch-resistant layer 880 be coated over the entire portion of the surface formed with the first recess 850 and first opening 830, as shown in Fig. 8c, because it is difficult to coat the etch-resistant layer 880 only on the surface portion including the first recess 850. Although the etch-resistant layer 880 wax employed in this embodiment is an alkali-soluble wax, any suitable wax resistant to the etching action of the etchant solution and remaining somewhat soft during etching may be used. A wax for forming the etch-resistant layer 880 is not limited to the above-mentioned wax, but may be a wax of a UV-setting type. Since the first recess 850 etched by the primary etching process at the surface formed with the pattern adapted to

form a desired shape of the inner lead tip is filled up with the etch-resistant layer 880, it is not further etched in the following secondary etching process. The etch-resistant layer 880 also enhances the mechanical strength of the lead frame blank for the second etching process, thereby enabling the second etching process to be conducted while keeping a high accuracy. It is also possible to enable a second etchant solution to be sprayed at an increased spraying pressure, for example, 2.5 kg/cm^2 or above, in the secondary etching process. The increased spraying pressure promotes the progress of etching in the direction of the thickness of the lead frame blank in the secondary etching process. Then, the lead frame blank is subjected to a secondary etching process. In this secondary etching process, the lead frame blank 810 is etched at its surface formed with the first recess 850 having a flat etched bottom surface, to completely perforate the lead frame blank 810, thereby forming the tips 890 of the inner leads (Fig. 8d).

The bottom surface 870 of each recess formed by the primary etching process and parallel to the surface of the lead frame is flat. However, both side surfaces of each recess positioned at opposite sides of the bottom surface 870 have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. Then, the lead frame blank is cleaned. After

completion of the cleaning process, the etch-resistant layer 880, and resist films (resist patterns 820A and 820B) are sequentially removed. Thus, a lead frame having a structure of Fig. 6a is obtained in which tips 690 of inner leads are arranged at a fine pitch. The removal of the etch-resistant layer 880 and resist films (resist patterns 820A and 820B) is achieved using a sodium hydroxide solution serving to dissolve them.

The etching method in which the etching process is conducted at two separate steps, respectively, as described above, is generally called a "two-step etching method". This etching method is advantageous in that a desired fineness can be obtained. The etching method used to fabricate the lead frame 130 used in the present invention and shown in Figs. 6a and 6b involves the two-step etching method and the method for forming a desired shape of each lead frame portion while reducing the thickness of each pattern formed. In accordance with the above method, the fineness of the tip 131A of each inner lead formed by this method is dependent on a shape of the second recesses 860 and the thickness of the inner lead tip. For example, where the blank has a thickness t reduced to 50 μm, the inner leads can have a fineness corresponding to a lead width W1 of 100 μm and a tip pitch p of 0.15 mm, as shown in Fig. 6e. In the case of using a small blank thickness t

of about 30 μm and a lead width W1 of 70 μm, it is possible to form inner leads having a fineness corresponding to an inner lead pitch p of 0.12 mm. Of course, it may be possible to form inner leads having a further reduced tip pitch by adjusting the blank thickness t and the lead width W1.

In the case where twisting of the inner leads does not occur in the fabricating process, as in the case where the inner leads are short in their length, a lead frame illustrated in Fig. 6a can be directly obtained. However, where the inner leads are long in length as compared to those of the first embodiment, the inner leads have a tendency for the generation of twisting. Thus, in this case, the lead frame is obtained by etching in a state where the tips of the inner leads are bound to each other by a connecting member 131B as shown in Fig. 6c(I). Then, the connecting member 131B, unnecessary for the fabrication of a semiconductor package, is cut off by means of a press to obtain a lead frame shaped as shown in Fig. 6a.

In the case of fabricating a lead frame 230 having a die pad 235 as shown in Figs. 7a and 7b, the lead frame may be shaped by etching in a state where a connecting member 231B is arranged on the tips of the inner leads to bind the tips directly to the die pad, as shown in Fig. 7c(I). Then, unnecessary portions in the shaped lead frame may be cut

off. Moreover, Fig. 7b is a cross-sectional view taken along the line C11-C22, and the line E11-E21 in Fig. 7c(ii) shows a cutting line. After the inner leads are plated in accordance with a jig plating process, unnecessary portions are cut off to obtain a lead frame having a good quality with no plating failure. Moreover, as described above, where unnecessary portions in the structure shown in Fig. 6c are cut off to obtain the lead frame having a shape shown in Fig. 6a, a reinforcing tape 160 (a polyimide tape) is generally used, as shown in Fig. 6c(iii). Similarly, the reinforcing tape is also used in the case of cutting off unnecessary portions in a structure shown in Fig. 7c. While the connecting member 131B is cut off by means of a press to obtain a shape shown in Fig. 6c(iii), a semiconductor chip is mounted on the lead frame still having the reinforcing tape attached thereon. Also, the mounted semiconductor chip is encapsulated with a resin in a condition where the lead frame still has the tape.

The tip 131A of each inner lead of the lead frame used in the semiconductor device of this first embodiment has a cross-sectional shape as shown in Fig. 9(I). The tip 131A has an etched flat surface (second surface) 131Ab which has a width W1 slightly more than the width W2 of an opposite surface. The widths W1 and W2 (about 100 μm) are more than the width W at the central portion of the tips when viewed

in the direction of the inner lead thickness. Thus, the tip of the inner lead has a cross-sectional shape having opposite wide surfaces. To this end, although either of the opposite surfaces of the tip 131A can be easily electrically connected to a semiconductor chip (not shown) by a wire 120A or 120B, this embodiment illustrates the use of the etched flat surface for wire-bonding as shown in Fig. 9(ii)a. In Fig.9, a reference numeral 131Ab depicts an etched flat surface, 131Aa a surface of a lead frame blank, and 121A and 121B, respectively, a plated portion. In the case of Fig.9(ii)a, there is a particularly excellent wire-bonding property, as the etched flat surface does not have roughness. Fig.9(iii) shows that the tip 931C of the inner lead of the lead frame fabricated according to the process illustrated in Fig. 10 is wire-bonded to a semiconductor chip. In this case, however, both opposite surfaces of the tip 931C of the inner lead are flat, but have a width smaller than that in a direction of the inner lead thickness. In addition to this, as both the opposite surfaces of the tip 931C are formed of surfaces of the lead frame blank, these surfaces have an inferior wire-bonding property as compared to that of the etched flat surface of the first embodiment. Fig.9(iv) shows that the inner lead tip 931D or 931E, obtained by thinning in its thickness by a means of a press and then by etching, is wire-bonded to a

semiconductor chip (not shown). In this case, however, a pressed surface of the inner lead tip is not flat as shown Fig. 9(iv). Thus, the wire-bonding on either of the opposite surfaces as shown in Fig. 9(iv)a or Fig. 9(iv)b often results in an insufficient wire-bonding stability and a problematic quality.

A modification to the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the first embodiment will now be described. Fig. 2a is a cross-sectional view illustrating a modification to the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the first embodiment, and Fig. 2c shows an appearance of the semiconductor device in accordance with the modification. Fig. 2c(ii) is a view when viewed from the bottom of the semiconductor device, Fig. 2c(I) is a front view of the semiconductor device, and Fig. 2b is a cross-sectional view of a terminal column taken at a position corresponding to the line A1-A2 of Fig. 1a. The semiconductor device according to the modification is different with that of the first embodiment in terminal portion 133A. The terminal portions at their tips are protruded externally from a resin 140. The surface of the tip of each terminal portion is plated with solder. Thus, when mounting the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, the solder is uniformly distributed through an opening 133c. The semiconductor device 100A of this modification is identical to that of

the first embodiment except for the terminal portions 133A.

A resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with a second embodiment will now be described. Fig. 3a is a cross-sectional view of a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device according to the second embodiment, Fig. 3b is a cross-sectional view of an inner lead taken along the line A3-A4 of the Fig. 3a, and Fig. 3c(I) is a cross-sectional view of a terminal column taken along the line A3-A4 of Fig. 3a. In Fig. 3, a reference numeral 200 depicts a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, 210 a semiconductor chip, 230 a lead frame, 231 inner leads, 231Aa a first surface, 231Ab a second surface, 231Ac a third surface, 231Ad a fourth surface, 233 terminal columns, 233A terminal portions, 233B sides, 235 a die pad, 240 an encapsulating resin, 250 an insulating adhesive, 250A an adhesive, and 260 a reinforcing tape. In the case of the second embodiment similarly to the case of the first embodiment, the semiconductor chip 210 is mounted in such a manner that the surface, on which electrode portions (pads) 211 are formed, is mounted fixedly on the inner leads 231 by means of the insulating adhesive, while the electrode portions 211 are arranged between the inner leads 231. The electrode portions are electrically connected to the second surfaces 231Ab of the tips of the inner leads 231. The lead frame has the die pad 235 at its inside. The electrod

portions 211 are arranged between the inner leads 231 and the die pad 235. Moreover, in the second embodiment similarly to the case of the first embodiment, electrical connection of the semiconductor device 200 to an external circuit is achieved by mounting the semiconductor device 200 on a printed substrate by terminal portions made of a semi-spherical solder and arranged on the tips of the terminal columns 233. In this embodiment, a conductive adhesive is used to adhere the semiconductor chip 210 to the die pad 235, and the die pad 235 and the terminal columns 233 are connected by the inner leads to each other, thereby dissipating heat generated in the semiconductor chip through the die pad. Also, the adhesive 250A necessarily needs to be conductive. However, where the die pad and the semiconductor chip are connected together by means of the conductive adhesive and the die pad is connected to a ground line, it is possible to not only obtain a heat dissipation effect, but also to solve a problem associated with noise.

Similarly to the lead frame used in the first embodiment, the lead frame 230 used in the second embodiment is made of 42% nickel-iron alloy. However, as shown in Figs. 7a and 7b, the lead frame 230 is shaped to have the die pad 235 and the inner leads 233 having a thickness thinner than that of the terminal columns. The

terminal columns each have a thickness of 0.15 mm. The inner leads are arranged at a pitch of 0.12 mm, thereby meeting a demand for the increased terminal number of the semiconductor device. The second surface 231Ab of each inner lead is flat, such that is easy to wire-bond. The third and fourth surfaces 231Ac and 231Ad also have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. This structure exhibits a high strength even though the second face (wire bonding surface) is narrow. Moreover, the fabrication of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the second embodiment is carried out in accordance with substantially the same process as that of the first embodiment.

For example, in a modification to the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the second embodiment, an opening 233C is formed on the tip of each terminal column 233 as in the modification to the first embodiment. The opening is protruded externally from the encapsulating resin 240 such that the tip having the opening serves as the terminal 233A.

A resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with a third embodiment will now be described. Fig. 4a is a cross-sectional view of a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with a third embodiment, and Fig. 4b is a cross-sectional view of an inner lead

taken along the line A5-A6 of Fig. 4a. Also, Fig. 4c(I) is a cross-sectional view of a terminal column taken along the line B5-B6 of Fig. 4a. In Fig. 4, a reference numeral 300 depicts a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device, 310 a semiconductor device, 311 pads, 330 a lead frame, 331 inner leads, 331Aa a first surface, 331Ab a second surface, 331Ac a third surface, 331Ad a fourth surface, 333 terminal columns, 333A terminal portions, 333B sides, 335 a die pad, 340 a encapsulating resin, and 360 a reinforcing resin.

Unlike the first or second embodiment above, the semiconductor device 300 in accordance with this third embodiment includes bumps 311. The bumps 311 are mounted fixedly on the inner leads 330 and electrically connect the semiconductor chip 310 and the inner leads 331 together. Similarly to the first or second embodiment, electrical connection of the semiconductor device to an external circuit is achieved by mounting the semiconductor device on a printed substrate by terminal portions 333A made of a semi-spherical solder and arranged on the tips of the terminal columns.

Similarly to the lead frame used in the first or second embodiment, the lead frame 330 used in the second embodiment is made of 42% nickel-iron alloy. However, the lead frame 330 is shaped to have the tips 331A of the inner leads having a thickness thinner than that of the terminal

columns, as shown in Figs. 6a and 6b. The terminal columns 333 are equal to the lead frame blank in thickness. The tips 331A of the inner leads are 40 μm thick, and the remaining portions other than the tips 331A of the inner leads are 0.15 mm thick, such that the lead frame has a strength sufficient to withstand the subsequent processes. The inner leads are arranged at a pitch of 0.12 mm, thereby meeting a demand for the increased terminal number of the semiconductor device. The second surface 331Ab of each inner lead 331A is flat, such that is easy to wire-bond. The third and fourth surfaces 331Ac and 331Ad also have a concave shape depressed toward the inside of the inner lead. This structure exhibits a high strength even though the second face (wire bonding surface) is narrow. Moreover, the fabrication of the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the second embodiment is carried out in accordance with substantially the same process as that of the first embodiment, except that the semiconductor chip is mounted fixedly on the die pad, followed by encapsulation with the encapsulating resin.

For example, in a modification to the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device of the third embodiment, an opening 333C is formed on the tip of each terminal column 333 as in the modification to the first embodiment as shown in Fig. 2. The opening is protruded externally

from the encapsulating resin 340A such that the tip having the opening serves as the terminal 333A.

[EFFECTS OF THE INVENTION]

The present invention provides a resin-encapsulated semiconductor device employing the above-mentioned lead frame, which is capable of meeting a demand for the increased terminal number and is excellent in mounting efficiency. Furthermore, the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device in accordance with this invention does not require a process of cutting or bending the dam bars as in the case of using a lead frame having outer leads as shown in Fig. 11b. As a result of this, the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device does not have a problem in that the outer leads are bent, or a problem associated with coplanarity. In addition to these advantages, the resin-encapsulated semiconductor device has a shortened interconnection length as compared to the QTP or the BGA, whereby the semiconductor device can be reduced in a parasitic capacity, and shortened in a transfer delay time.